

Lonnie McDonald

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Hawthorne Public Hearings

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25 LONNIE McDONALD: My name is Lonnie McDonald,

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1 otherwise known as Red throughout the town. Everybody that
2 knows anybody knows that I'm Red. And my comment is that
3 with the tax structure of Mineral County suffering as it is
4 from lack of money, and they have taxed to the hilt, they
5 can't add any tax, then I think that Mineral County should
6 take the initiative to try to get the nuclear waste away
7 from Yucca Mountain. Why give Yucca Mountain, Las Vegas,
8 southern Nevada any more money than what they have already
9 got? Northern rural Nevada needs more, the money that can
10 be gained from this venture. The Department of Defense, or
11 whatever entity is in charge of, would pay Mineral County a
12 certain amount of tax money each year.

13 We've had the room as much as Yucca Mountain
14 has the room. It's a big county with very few people.
15 There are very few people in the counties around us. So
16 there wouldn't be any more danger than there is down at
17 Yucca Mountain, as far as nuclear incidents that might
18 occur.

19 With the nuclear weapons and nuclear waste
20 sealed as they are, there's very little chance that there

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21 would be a mishap, and a mishap in Yucca Mountain area
22 would affect all of the state of Nevada as well if the wind
23 conditions were right.

24 So poor Mineral County could use the money,
25 and I think that Mineral County should take the initiative
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1 and go after it, whatever they can get in the way of
2 nuclear waste storage, because we have the storage facility
3 right here in Mineral County, if nothing else, without
4 having to go out into the interlands and dig a new hole.
5 So that's my comment. Thank you.